

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /097 W
-----044601 171016Z /10

P R 170855Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5150
INFO AMMBASSY BELGRADE 2244
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, GE, CZ, CSCE
SUBJECT: HUSAK VISIT VIEWED FROM PRAGUE

REFS A. BONN 6293 B. BONN 6874

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AND CPCZ GENERAL SECRETARY GUSTAV
HUSAK APPEARS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO IN HIS VISIT
,
THE FIRST BY A CZECHOSLOVAK HEAD OF STATE, TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.
DESPITE THE FEW TANGIBLE RESULTS ACHIEVED, HUSAK'S VISIT STRENGTHENED
THE CLIMATE OF GOOD WILL FOSTERED BY VISITS TO PRAGUE IN JANUARY AND
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MARCH BY HERBERT WEHNER AND HEINZ KUHN. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY
WHETHER THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED WILL IN FACT LEAD TO CONCRETE
IMPROVEMENTS IN BILATERAL TIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT HUSAK AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SIGNED A LENGTHY JOINT
DECLARATION WHICH EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO STRIVE
FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS AND ESTABLISHED YEARLY CONSULTATIONS

BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE ONLY OTHER DOCUMENT ADOPTED WAS A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, WHICH RUDE PRAVOSEUBLISHED IN FULL, INCLUDING THE BERLIN CLAUSE. WE ARE TOLD BY GERMAN COLLEAGUES THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME THE BERLIN (FRANK-FALIN) CLAUSE HAS APPEARED IN A PUBLISHED CZECHOSLOVAK AGREEMENT. THE DECEMBER, 1973 TREATY ON MUTUAL RELATIONS HANDLED THE QUESTION OF BERLIN IN SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

3. DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT-THE AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE TAXATION WHICH WAS IN THE WORKS (REF A) DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE SIGNING TABLE BECAUSE OF A MINOR TECHNICAL DETAIL, ACCORDING TO OUR FRG COLLEAGUES. BONN HAD NO OBJECTION TO EXTENDING TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SPECIAL TAX PREFERENCES FOR INVESTORS IN WEST BERLIN. PRAGUE WAS INTERESTED IN THESE PREFERENCES, BUT INSISTED ON NEGOTIATING A SEPARATE SIDE-MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT. IT SIMPLY DID NOT GET DONE IN TIME. THE QUESTION OF WHEN IT WILL BE SIGNED IS NOW MOOT.

4. BORDER COMMISSION-THE CZECHS, ACCORDING TO THE FRG EMBASSY HERE, ARGUED THAT, AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHARES NO BORDER WITH WEST BERLIN, AN AGREEMENT WITH BONN ON REGULATING BORDER INCIDENTS WOULD NOT HAVE TO INCLUDE A BERLIN CLAUSE. AS WAS REPORTED IN REF A, CZECHS DROPPED THE IDEA WHEN THEY DISCOVJEED GERMAN INSISTENCE ON A BERLIN CLAUSE WAS FIRM. LIKE THE DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT, THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS ALONG THE BORDER GOT A BRIEF MENTION IN THE JOINT DECLARATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IT IS NOW IMAGINED THAT THE TWO PARTIES MAY EACH APPOINT A COMMISSIONER (BEAUFTRAGTER) AND SET UP PROCEDURES FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS ON BORDER PROBLEMS BY MEANS OF A VERBAL NOTE.

5. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES-JUST BEFORE HUSAK DEPARTED FOR BONN, CZECHOSLOVAK MFA INFORMED FRG EMBASSY HERE THAT THREE HUNDRED ETHNIC GERMANS HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. FRG EMBASSY CANNOT CHECK UP ON ALL OF THESE CASES, SO IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT CZECHS WILL CARRY THROUGH. THERE ARE TWENTY-THREE CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN STILL ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY'S LIST. WHEN CONSUL INTERVENED ON THESE CASES RECENTLY, HE RECEIVED ANSWER IN FORM OF TECHNICAL DETAILS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL CASES WHICH PREVENTED THEIR IMMEDIATE SOLUTION.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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P R 170855Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5151
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
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6. POLITICAL IMPACT-THE REGIME HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO
GUARD ITS FLANK FROM CRITICISM BY ALLIES OF THIS "OPENING TO THE
WEST" SPEARHEADED BY HUSAK. MOST NOTABLE WAS SPEECH BY FOREIGN
MINISTER CHNOUPEK TO A JOINT FEDERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING APRIL 5
IN WHICH HE INTRODUCED THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE GDR
SIGNED BY HUSAK LAST OCTOBER IN BERLIN AND EMPHASIZED CERTAIN
OF ITS POINTS: THE INVIOABILITY OF PRESENT BORDERS AND THE
DEVELOPMENT OF GDR-CSSR RELATIONS. THE TREATY WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUS
LY AND
THE VOTE WAS GREETED BY APPLAUSE, ACCORDING TO RUDE PRAVO.

7. CZECHOSLOVAK IMAGE OF FRG.-THOSE OF US WHO READ RUDE PAVO
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THE MORNING OF APRIL 14 WERE STRUCK BY THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW
PRESIDENT HUSAK GAVE TO CZECHOSLOVAK TV JUST AFTER HIS RETURN HOME.
ASKED ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH CDU AND CSU LEADERS HELMUT KOHL
AND FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, HUSAK SAID "THEY SUPPORT THE DEEPENING OF
TIES BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN THE
INEFQ NATIONAL SPHERE, AS THEY PUT IT, THEY SUPPORT THE POLICY OF
DETENTE, DISARMAMENT, AND SO ON." IN SHOT, TWO BOGEYMEN OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS, KOHL AND ESPECIALLY STRAUSS, WERE MADE TO

SOUND REASONABLE. HUSAK FURTHER SAID THAT STRAUSS AND KOHL HAD
"EXPRESSED THEMSELVES POSITIVELY" DURING HIS TALKS WITH THEM.

8. RELATIONS WITH WEST-ANOTHER SURPRISE TO READERS OF APRIL 14
RUDE PRAVO WAS HUSAK'S COMMENT THAT GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY
CHAIRMAN, HERBERT MIES, AND HIS COLLEAGUES "CONSIDER OUR TRIP
FURTHER PROOF OF THE FUTILITY OF ALL ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE CZECHOSLOVAK
IA
FROM THE WESTERN WORLD." THOUGH IT SEEMS LCEAR THAT HUSAK HAD
IN MIND ATTEMPTS BY "REACTIONARY CIRCLES" TO ISOLATE CSSR FROM
THE WEST, MANY CZECHS WE KNOW WILL LOOK THE OTHER DIRECTION.

COMMEM
: IN SUMMARION, IT LOOKS AS IF A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR
IMPROVING RELATIONS HAS BEEN LAID, BUT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL
TELL WHETHER THE CZECHOSLOVAKS AND WEST GERMANS CAN BUILD
ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL ON IT. CONTACTS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
TELL US THEY ARE EXPECTING AN INSTRUCTION TO "TREAT THE GERMANS
WELL" IN TRADE MATTERS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT FORM THIS MIGHT
TAKE. IT ALSO REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S RELATIONS
WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., MIGHT BE AFFECTED
BY "SPECIAL" NATURE OF THEIR TIES WITH FRG, IF SUCH A SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP KEEPS DEVELOPING. IT ALSO REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE
VISIT MAY HAVE HELPED OR HARMED THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT HUSAK,
WHO RETURNED TO PRAGUE VISIBLY TIRED.
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